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# SCIENCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1920

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## SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN RELATION TO AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS<sup>1</sup>

I AM proud of having an opportunity to assist at the birth of this new society. In this case it seems that parturition has been long overdue—perhaps owing to the size of the embryo, if one may judge by the secretary's statement of membership. At any rate it proves to be a very vigorous healthy youngster and since it will be watched over by all these experts in nutrition, diseases, etc., one can safely predict for it a rapid growth and active maturity.

I must ask you not to estimate my modesty by the title of my remarks, which appears on the program—"Scientific research in relation to agricultural problems." This very large subject has been assigned to me by your committee and one consents to discuss it on the present occasion only because the relationship of scientific research to the industries *in general* has recently been thoroughly discussed and forcibly brought home to every one. The relationship of scientific research to agriculture is only a particular phase of this general question which has been frequently and ably discussed from many quarters. It would serve no useful purpose to point out particular agricultural examples of principles which should be familiar to all scientists. It will, therefore, not be necessary to attempt a comprehensive treatment of the subject. It will be sufficient to point out certain respects in which the relationship is peculiarly important to agriculture, or in which agriculture differs from the other industries. In accordance with the desire of your committee, I shall speak largely from the standpoint of the so-called pure scientist.

Agricultural scientific research suffers more

<sup>1</sup> Address delivered at the organizing convention of the Canadian Society of Technical Agriculturists, Ottawa, June 3, 1920.